DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

EXCISE

POL 7 PR-ISR

FOR RM USE ONLY

RM/R	REP	AF
1		
ARA	EUR	FE
	5	
NEA	CU	INR
		5
E	P	IO
	1	
L	FSO	AID
	1	
	S/P	
AGR	COM	FRB
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	XMB	AIR
		5
ARMY	CIA	NAVY
5	10	3
OSD	USIA	NSA
2	8	3
		NSC
		6

NEA-5

A-537 NO. CONFIDENTIAL HANDLING INDICATOR

614

TO : Department of State

INFO Paris

FROM : American Embassy, TEL AVIV

SUBJECT : Franco-Israeli Scuttlebutt

REF :

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY S. Duncan DATE 2/2/84
RDS-[redacted] EXT. DATE OADR
TS AUTH. Bruce Jamerson DATE 1984 DL Mem
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☐
RELEASE DENIED RX Pub
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS per b1
2 - 1

B1-(5a)

A good [redacted] source here, whose business it is to maintain close relations with the French Embassy and general French effort in Israel, commented to Embassy officers recently along the following lines.

1. The French National Defense Institute alumni who just ~~week ago~~ visited Israel (Embassy's A-509, January 8, 1965) had themselves a ball. They thoroughly enjoyed the varied program laid on for them by the IDF and were most impressed by Israel and the Israelis. Perhaps the only point the IDF overlooked, said the [redacted] ruefully, was to bring more of Israel's girl soldiers into the group's activities. The group had split into six study commissions and would prepare separate reports on various aspects of Israeli activity for the French Prime Minister's office. While these reports may never be read by any one, the effect of the visit on those who came should prove very helpful for the future of Franco-Israeli relations.

B1-(5a)

2. Couve de Murville is well known to be cool toward Israel, the source said. However, the GOI considers De Gaulle solidly pro-Israel and is therefore not worried about Couve. As long as De Gaulle remains, he checks Couve, and when De Gaulle goes, so will Couve, the GOI reasons.

3. Largely as a result of Couve's attitude, the French Embassy in Israel fails to function as a link between the GOI and the French Government. Particularly when compared to his predecessor Gilbert, Ambassador Bourdeillette has been very cold toward Israel. However,

GROUP 3
Downgraded at 12 year intervals, not automatically declassified

FOR DEPT. USE ONLY ☐ In ☐ Out

FORM DS-323 4-62 CONFIDENTIAL

Drafted by: POL:GBLambrakis/osv 1/14/65

Contents and Classification Approved by: POL:SEPalmer, Jr.

Clearances:

1965 JAN 18 PM 4 37

COPY FLO-FBR

this situation appears to have taken a surprising twist recently. When speaking to the French Defense Institute alumni a few weeks ago, Deputy Defense Minister Peres pulled a rather unusual coup. Speaking French with his inimitable Polish accent, Peres began to read poems which were paens of praise for the people of Israel. He first identified the author as a "French poet." Later, it turned out to be Bourdeillette, who writes poetry. This, needless to say, is not likely to make Couve de Murville happy, our source conjectured.

For the Ambassador:

Stephen E. Palmer, Jr.
First Secretary of Embassy